GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1692
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
REFORMS ON DOMESTIC REGULATIONS IN WTO
Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make efforts to revive negotiations on the service sector in the next Doha round of trade talks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the Government has highlighted the importance of reforms on domestic regulations in the WTO?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. India is actively participating in discussions being held at the WTO, Geneva. At present, discussions in the Special Session of the Council for Trade in Services of the WTO and bilateral meetings with some of India's major trading partners are under way.

(c): The discussions at the WTO inter-alia relate to disciplining of domestic regulations. The Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration mandates disciplining of domestic regulations before the conclusion of the Doha Round. India's view is that disciplines in domestic regulations complement the market access commitments. The Chairman of the Working Party on Domestic Regulations has come out with a Text. Currently, discussions based on the Chairman's Text are under way.